

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims supersedes all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer system configured for communications, comprising:

a processor;

a first operating system running on the processor;

a second operating system running on the processor; and

a network interface for communicating data,

~~in which~~ wherein the first and second operating systems are arranged to share usage of the network interface;

~~characterised in that~~ the network interface operates using a single set of network logical addresses common to both operating systems, and

executable computer program code associated with the first operating system is arranged to receive all incoming data packets and to forward to the second operating system those packets which are not specifically for use by the first operating system or applications running thereon.

2. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1 or 21, in which the first operating system is a real time operating system.

3. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1 or 21, in which the second operating system is a general purpose operating system.

4-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim ~~[[5]]~~ 21, in which the transmission scheduler is arranged to give priority to the first operating system.

7. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim ~~[[5]]~~ 21, in which the transmission scheduler is arranged not to send any packets from the second operating system while there are packets for transmission from the first operating system.

8. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1 or 21, which is arranged to communicate using Internet protocols.

9-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1 or 21, in which said first and second operating systems both operate on a single processor.

12. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 11, comprising an inter-operating system communications channel for carrying messages between said first and second operating systems, and/or applications running thereon.

13. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1 or 21, in which the first operating system has a first subset of address ports and the second operating system has a second subset of address ports, each said subset comprising at least one address port, said first and second subsets being mutually exclusive.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1 or 3, comprising code for providing a real time data transmission channel for communicating data and associated control and/or supervisory signals, in which the code comprises:

first code operating under said first operating system for communicating said data; and

second code operating under said second operating system for communicating said control and/or supervisory signals.

16. (Original) A system according to claim 15, in which the first operating system is arranged to use a UDP/IP protocol stack to communicate said data.

17. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The system of claim 15, 16 or 22 implementing a voice-over-Internet communications system, comprising a computer concurrently running first and second operating systems, the first operating system being a real time operating system and the second operating system being a general purpose operating system, in which the first operating system is arranged to communicate voice data and the second operating system is arranged to communicate signalling and/or supervisory data, using respective first and second TCP/IP stacks sharing a common IP address.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of providing network access to a computer, said method comprising:

providing first and second operating systems on the computer, operating concurrently, ~~characterized by~~ while sharing a logical network address and allowing said operating systems to share access to a network interface of said computer;

receiving all incoming data packets by the first operating system; and

forwarding to the second operating system those packets which are not specifically for use by the second operating system or applications running thereon.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~A computer program product comprising~~ Computer-readable tangible storage media storing executable code for causing a computer to perform the method of claim 18 or 23.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A computer system configured for communications, comprising:
a processor;
a first operating system running on the processor;
a second operating system running on the processor; and
a network interface for communicating data,
wherein the first and second operating systems are arranged to share usage of the network interface;
the network interface operates using a single set of network addresses common to both operating systems, and
the first operating system comprises a transmission scheduler arranged to selectively forward outgoing data packets from the first and second operating systems for transmission through the network interface.

22. (New) A system according to claim 15 or 16, in which the second operating system comprises a TCP/IP protocol stack.

23. (New) A method of providing network access to a computer, said method comprising:

providing first and second operating systems on the computer, operating concurrently, and sharing a network address while allowing said operating systems to share access to a network interface of said computer, and

the first operating system selectively forwarding outgoing data packets from the first and second operating systems for transmission through the network interface.